

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: AF:TWSEELYE

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S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 031315

NODIS

CHEROKEE FOR THE AMBASSADOR

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON SENT ACTION SECSTATE 10 FEB 77

QUOTE S E C R E T LONDON 2436

NODIS CHEROKEE

DEPT PASS CAPE TOWN

FOR SECRETARY FROM SCHAUFLE

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH BOTHA

CONFIRMING TELECON WITH SEELYE SAG AMBASSADOR
BOTHA PROVIDED FOLLOWING AS COMMUNICATION FROM HIS
GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL ALSO BE GIVEN TO UK AND US AMBASSADOR
IN CAPE TOWN:

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A) AFTER MEETING BETWEEN VORSTER AND SMITH SAG
IS CONVINCED THT RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS MAJORITY RULE
WITHIN TWO YEARS.

B) FIRST PRIORITY IS TO FIND PRACTICAL AND ORDERLY METHOD TO
IMPLEMENT MAJORITY RULE.

C) RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT NOW HAS WILL AND DESIRE TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THESE PROCEDURAL ASPECTS.

D) AT THIS STAGE IT IS NECESSARY TO LOOK AT WAYS TO ACHIEVE THIS.

E) ACCORDINGLY IT WOULD BE USEFUL AND DESIRABLE THAT AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL TAKES PLACE AMONG SAG, UK AND US.

BOTHA ADDED FOLLOWING INFORMAL COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS WHICH BRAND FOURIE ASKED BE PASSED ON:

A) SAG BELIEVES THAT FIVE POINTS OF SMITH SEPTEMBER 24 SPEECH ARE "NOT FASHIONABLE" AND SO INFORMED RHODESIANS.

B) RHODESIANS ARE CHANGED PEOPLE. THEY INDICATED THAT THEY IMPRESSED WITH PROBLEMS OF SECURITY AND THAT A BASIC FEAR IS GROWING AMONG WHITES. IF "MEN WITH GUNS" SIMPLY TAKE OVER RESULTS FOR BOTH BLACKS AND WHITES WILL BE GRAVE.

C) RHODESIANS ARE PREPARED TO GO BEYOND "TECHNICAL TIES" AND HAVE "REACHED END OF THE ROAD."

D) RHODESIANS RAISED TWO PRIMARY POINTS ABOUT BRITISH PROPOSALS:

- 1) THERE ARE TOO MANY MINISTERS TO OPERATE EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT;
- 2) THEY FEAR THAT OUTSIDE SERVICE CHIEFS MIGHT BE OTHER THAN BRITISH.

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E) IN TALKS WITH SAG RHODESIANS REFERRED TO 15 MONTHS, 18 MONTHS, AND TWO YEARS AS DEADLINE FOR MAJORITY RULE.

F) ESSENTIALLY RHODESIANS ARE READY TO ACCEPT BLACK MAJORITY RULE.

I QUERIED BOTHA WHETHER SAG THEN HAD THOUGHT SMITH WAS NOT SINCERE IN SEPTEMBER WHEN HE BOUGHT MAJORITY WITHIN TWO YEARS. BOTHA THOUGHT HE WAS SINCERE INsofar AS VORSTER WOULD MAKE HIM LIVE UP TO HIS COMMITMENT BUT CONDITIONS MIGHT DEVELOP IN SUCH A WAY THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE HIS MIND LATER. SOME RHODESIANS HAD ALSO CONTINUED TO CHERISH HOPE THAT USG WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE IN EXTREMIS. SAG HAD BEEN TRYING TO DISABUSE THEM OF THAT POSSIBILITY HOWEVER.

BOTHA SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU ASAP, EVEN IF ONLY FOR TEN MINUTES. I SAID I WOULD BE INFORMING SEELYE IMMEDIATELY OF OUR CONVERSATION. BOTHA ASKED IF WE COULD SLOW DOWN PROCESS OF BYRD AMENDMENT REPEAL IF DOING SO WOULD BE HELPFUL. I REMINDED HIM YOU WOULD BE TESTIFYING TODAY AND THAT

CONGRESS SETS ITS OWN PACE. AS WE SEPARATED BOTHA MENTIONED POSSIBILITY THAT SUGGESTED MEETING TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON WITH VORSTER PARTICIPATING. I DID NOT ENCOURAGE HIM. HE ALSO RAISED QUESTION OF ROLE FOR RICHARD WHO APPARENTLY HAD ALIENATED BOTH BLACKS AND WHITE RHODESIANS.

COMMENT: SAG IS OBVIOUSLY SEEKING TWO OBJECTIVES, PROGRESS ON RHODESIA AND RECOGNITION BY NEW ADMINISTRATION OF ITS HELPFUL ROLE. MY RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE TO SEE BOTHA BRIEFLY, BUT NOT ON PUBLIC CALENDAR, AND DELAY RESPONSE ON HIS BASIC QUESTION OF MEETING IN ORDER TO GET BETTER IDEA OF HOW SAG SAW PROCESS DEVELOPING, I.E. WHAT WOULD SUCH A MEETING BE DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE AND WHAT ASSURANCE IS THERE THAT IT WILL BE PRODUCTIVE, ESPECIALLY WITHOUT CONSULTING FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AND NATIONALISTS. COULD SAME THING BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT A MEETING?

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UNLESS YOU PERCEIVE OBJECTION I WILL RAISE THIS WITH UK IN MEETING HERE TOMORROW.ARMSTRONG

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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